

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace [0028] of the published application with the following:

[0028] During cutting, the material being cut in the head-and-foot station is pressed by the pressing strips 19, which are moved by means of toothed rack drives 20. The pressing strips are extended to the center of the machine by telescopic adapters 21. ~~They~~ The pressing strips may be, e.g., in the form of a shutter. ~~They~~ The pressing strips are arranged slightly obliquely, so that they touch the block first on the back in order to press out the air for the cutting, after which they easily conform elastically to the shape. For example, the elements of the shutter are coated with a foam for this purpose.

Please replace [0030] of the published application with the following:

[0030] The three cutting units have separate drives 3~ for moving the respective knives and pressing. The material to be cut is conveyed by the conveyors 18 and 18a moving to and fro as well as up and down by the strokes h1 and h2. During conveying into the head-and-foot station, the back of the block always reaches the same position regardless of the format. The pressing strips 19 have recesses in this area in order to prevent creases from being formed on the back during the trimming of brochures. In the intake, the blocks are aligned in advance by the conveyor 18 and the stop plates 23 and are aligned once again in the first cutting position by the stops 24. During the conveying by the conveyor 18a into the front cutting station, the block is brought over the bridge 25 up to and against the back stop 26. After the cutting has been performed, the block is then brought onto a discharge belt 27 in a manner that is not shown, e.g., by a chain conveyor running around the cutting table 16.